



# The Benefits of Conversion Vans

A deeper look into the benefits wheelchair accessible vans provide to wheelchair users, their caregivers and their families.

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## *A letter from Rollx Vans*

*Thank you for downloading the Benefits of Conversion Vans e-book that we've created just for you.*

*At Rollx Vans, we've made a commitment to help our customers and the community as a whole to get the best possible experience from the moment they begin working with us. That includes visiting our website, talking to our team over the phone or simply browsing through one of our educational pieces online.*

*But, we don't stop there.*

*Whether you're new to working with the conversion van industry and just doing some initial research, or you're ready to have your fourth vehicle converted, our team at Rollx Vans is here to lend a helping hand. That's because our team isn't just here to sell vans, we're here to make a difference for the communities that we serve.*

*We hope that our guide to The Benefits of Conversion Vans will help you find the answers you are looking for, but should you find you have additional questions, please reach out to our team, so we can give you the best possible experience.*

*We hope to talk to you soon!*

***Mike Harris, Rollx Vans President  
and the rest of the team at Rollx Vans***



*Your Life. Your Ride*

## Overview

# The Benefits of Conversion Vans

Nearly 1 in 5 people in the United States has a disability.

This equates to approximately 56.7 million people.

Of that, roughly 560,000 people never leave home because of transportation issues.

Purchasing a vehicle is a big decision for anyone to make. There's the choice between new and used. The choice of model, engine, automatic or manual, color, basic features, upgraded features, cloth versus leather, the options are endless.

While it may seem that making any vehicle purchase choices would have the same amount of difficulty level, we know that when it comes to buying your first conversion van, it's always a big decision. The reason being that many people with disabilities have been getting by with their own methods of transportation for months or even years, and making the change doesn't instantly strike them as something that's necessary.



What most people don't realize is that a converted vehicle can change the way they live their life. It can provide safety, stability, the freedom of independence, and increase the quality of life for its users. So, if you've been thinking about how a wheelchair accessible van could impact your life this is the resource for you. Over the course of this e-book, we'll take a look at the different benefits wheelchair vans provide for their users beyond the basics of transportation.

## Chapter 1

# The Freedom to Go Where You Want

Being in a wheelchair does not mean losing all sense of independence. With the modern technology that is available in wheelchair vans, it is now easier than ever for wheelchair users to drive themselves wherever they need to go. If a person can use a wheelchair to get around, why can't he or she do the same with a wheelchair van?

## Wheelchair Vans Promote Independent Living

The best part about owning a wheelchair van is regaining the freedom to come and go when it is convenient for the user. Not every wheelchair user lives in the heart of a bustling city, and many live in cities where the wheelchair accessibility of public transportation isn't very good. Others live in rural areas where there is little choice but to own a personal vehicle.



**Studies show** that people with special needs that have a modicum of autonomy are happier than those that depend on family members for all of their needs.

**Some positive effects** of living independently include:

- Increased sense of self-worth
- Better sense of economic security
- Soaring self-confidence
- Improved productivity
- Ability to socialize, make meaningful connections

**Employment** is also a factor, as employment rates vary by type of disability. Employment rates are highest for people with hearing (50.2%) and vision (39.6%) disabilities, and lowest for people with self-care (15.2%) and independent living (15.3%) limitations.

**25.6% of people** with disabilities report that lack of transportation is a barrier for them getting a job.

Taking a road trip is easier than ever with the use of a wheelchair accessible van. Whether it's a trip to see family or friends, or visiting a place you've never been before (like the Chicago skyline pictured above) you'll have the freedom to go whenever you want, wherever you want.

Wheelchair vans eliminate the need to rely on family, friends or public transportation to get around. They also eliminate any feelings of being a burden.

Instead, wheelchair users can use their own, reliable methods of transportation to go where they want, when they want.



## Wheelchair Users Can Operate Their Vans on Their Own

Wheelchair vans can be driven by many wheelchair users. There is no need to have a caregiver act as a driver, meaning wheelchair users can get around on their own. Hand controls easily allow for people who do not have the use of their lower body to operate the accelerator and brakes. These controls are just as reliable and safe to use as standard car pedals.

Wheelchair users can qualify to operate their vehicle by obtaining a driver's license through their state. From there, learning to drive a wheelchair van is easy. The controls really aren't very different from those found in standard vehicles.

Even if a person is not qualified to drive their van, they still maintain independence by being able to board and deboard the vehicle on their own. All Rollx Vans come equipped with a lift or ramp that allows wheelchair users to get in and out of the vehicle without having to get out of their chair.

When it comes to being independent, there are a few things that beat owning a personal vehicle. Wheelchair vans are safe, affordable and offer the best thing possible for a person in a wheelchair: another means to get around.

## Chapter 2

# Saving Time Through Efficiency

Wheelchair users understand that certain things take them a bit more time to do, but this doesn't have to be the case when using a wheelchair van to get around.



Travelling with a wheelchair is not always the easiest task. Many wheelchairs are bulky, hard to store in a trunk and it takes time to get them in and out of the car. Some larger power wheelchairs are virtually impossible to fit in many types of vehicles.

Wheelchair vans eliminate this source of anxiety, allowing people to safely and easily get in and out of their vehicle, sometimes without even having to be transferred out of their wheelchair.

Getting out of the house to see family, friends or just to run errands or have a bit of fun doesn't have to turn into a large, complicated and time-consuming production.

## Wheelchair Vans are Easier and More Safe for Users

### The Problem with Public Transportation for Wheelchair users.

Many studies have been conducted on the use of public transportation by people with disabilities to determine if it's an effective means of getting around.

What most people don't realize is that these studies often show the gaps in effective and time efficient transportation methods.

For example:

- **Only 2 percent of taxis in New York City are wheelchair accessible.** Meaning, the wait time for a wheelchair user to get a taxi in NYC is far more significant than the wait time for an able-bodied person.
- In San Francisco, the **request for ramp vehicles ending in dispatch are 6 times more likely to result in a no-show** (meaning their patron was never picked up).

When wheelchair users have to travel in a non-handicap accessible van, it often requires a second set of hands and a lot of work. From transferring the wheelchair user into the vehicle, stowing the chair in the back, then having to repeat the process all over again when arriving at the desired location, getting around can seem like a lot more trouble than it's worth.

Getting in and out of a wheelchair van is far easier. All the vehicles at Rollx Vans come equipped with either a ramp or a lift that can get the wheelchair user in and out of the vehicle safely and with ease. There is no need for one or more caregivers to perform a risky transfer that could result in a fall.

### Time is Precious

No one likes to have their time wasted and while it may not seem like a waste of time transferring a wheelchair and its user in and out of a vehicle, it is when compared to the ease of doing so with a wheelchair van. The affordable price tags of Rollx Vans are well worth the increased independence and safety, savings of time and the decreased effort of getting around.

Whether a person is looking to take a short trip to the store or going on a cross country vacation, a wheelchair van will help make it as hassle-free as possible. Wheelchair users will also find that they have a lot more time to do what they want to, when they want to do it.



## Chapter 3

# The Easier the Better

The independence that wheelchair vans provide to people living with disabilities is a great thing to have, but the benefits that they also provide to wheelchair users' bodies are just as great.

Getting in and out of a standard car can be taxing on a wheelchair user's body. At times, it can even be dangerous. When using a wheelchair van, the strain is taken off the person's body because the van itself does all the work.

### Wheelchair Vans are Great for the Mind and Body

When boarding and deboarding a wheelchair van, users have the ability to remain seated in their chairs. While trying to get in and out of a standard vehicle generally requires the help of one or more caregivers, the ramps and lifts that are available on wheelchair vans allow for greater independence, safety and ease with entering and exiting the van.



#### **Studies show:**

Unintended patient adverse events associated with patient handling tasks include decreased resident comfort, fear, pain, damage to the shoulder from manual lifting techniques, hip fractures from dropping the patient, bruising of arms, loss of dignity during lifting procedure, increased dependency, skin tears, and pressure area damage.

The number of wheelchair related injuries treated in emergency rooms have more than doubled in the past two decades. The external cause of these injuries includes trips, falls, wheelchair transfer mishaps, and strains of body parts.

Major issues can be caused by transfers like:

- Repetitive shoulder strain injuries
- Carpal Tunnel
- Rotator Cuff Strain/ Shoulder Impingement

**Watch as one of our folding ramps quickly and easily folds into and out of the van whenever it's needed.**

Then, wheelchair users can enter or exit the vehicle without leaving their chair. This allows them to lessen the daily strain placed on their body.

## Features that Prevent Injury and Strains

Not having to transfer from a wheelchair to the seat inside of the vehicle, or having a transfer seat that comes directly to the user, eliminates the risk of falls or injuries during the entire process.

The vehicles at Rollx Vans can be modified to have seats that turn towards the user within the vehicle, helping people who shouldn't put additional strain on their bodies to safely and efficiently board the vehicle.



While inside the wheelchair van, tie-downs ensure the safety of the user by securing his or her wheelchair in place. This method of securement ensures that the passenger is comfortable and safe while the van is in motion.

## A More Comfortable Way to Travel

People who use wheelchairs or other assistive devices shouldn't have to suffer from uncomfortable vehicles that can cause further harm to their bodies. With a Rollx Van, all passengers and their wheelchairs can be safe and comfortable while boarding or deboarding with the use of a ramp or lift, and during the entire ride.

## Chapter 4

# Above All Else, Safety First



When people are looking to purchase a new vehicle, they generally check out the safety ratings at some point. That's because nothing is more important to a person than the lives of his or her family members.

When it comes to the safety features of a wheelchair van, they go far beyond the inclusion of airbags and crash test ratings.

### Safety Always Comes First and Rollx Vans are Safer for Wheelchair Users



Wheelchair vans also help to protect people with disabilities because, unlike standard vehicles, they are specifically created with the wheelchair user's safety in mind. Rollx Vans not only scores high on all exterior crash test ratings, they also feature a range of interior safety features. These include tie-down and securement devices that keep wheelchairs in place and prevent them from rolling around while the vehicle is in motion.

### Safety Statistics

We can't speak for other wheelchair van manufacturers, but we can speak to the safety accomplishments of our converted Rollx Vans models.

At Rollx Vans, the safety measures we add to all of our vans are checked and double checked throughout the entire conversion process. Not only that, but we have the certifications to prove our safety standards meet the highest requirements.

#### Our safety accolades:

- Perfect crash test rating with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- ISO 9001:2008 certified
- GSA Contract Holder



### Never Settle for Anything Less

When it comes to safety, extra careful is careful enough.

The engineers at Rollx Vans are among the best in the business, and they go above and beyond with every van that they create. We want you to be safe and healthy, and using a wheelchair van is far more safe for wheelchair users than having to transfer into a standard vehicle.

At Rollx Vans, we say we put extra time and care into every conversion we do from the ground up, we mean it. We make sure that all of our vans pass both our internal testing standards and also live up to the industry standards we follow. We ensure our vans are only the best quality to keep our customers safe out on the roads. Rollx Vans are affordable and safe for the whole family.

That's our promise.

 Contract Holder

## Conclusion

# Peace of Mind with Endless Options



At Rollx Vans, we know that the benefits provided by wheelchair vans far outweigh any possible negatives that potential clients bring to us. Through this e-book we hope to have shown you that too.

It's our mission to provide our customers with peace of mind through endless options. Whether that means providing them the option to transfer out of their wheelchair and into the driver's seat, or the ability to remain in their wheelchair and reduce the amount of strain on their body, or just simply through the extra options we provide with seating. No matter the customization, it's our goal to make sure it will work for our customers, their families and their caregivers, so they can safely and securely get from point A to point B every single day. But, we're looking to go beyond that too.

At Rollx Vans, we offer multiple ways for customers to receive their new wheelchair vans. Can't make it to our location? No problem. We'll come right to your driveway with your newly converted wheelchair van and show you exactly how everything works.



Because at Rollx Vans, we deliver more than just conversion vans. We deliver an exceptional experience that makes the disability community stronger than ever before.

## Resources:

- BLS.gov
- Cerebralpalsy.org/information/independence
- Civilrights.org/transportation/disability/facts.html
- Kesslerfoundation.org
- Ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
- Nchpad.org
- NYC.gov
- Nursingworld.org
- Rotamobility.com
- Wc-transportation-safety.umtri.umich.edu

**Do you have questions about the benefits of conversion vans?**

**Does your company or organization have additional facts to support the benefits of conversion vans?**

Contact the Rollx Vans team by emailing your inquiry to:

**info@rollxvans.com**

Or, call our National Headquarters located in Savage, Minnesota on our toll-free line:

**1-800-956-6668**

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